

REMARKS

This Amendment is submitted in response to the Advisory Action dated July 22, 2004 and in conjunction with a RCE filed concurrently herewith.

Claim Amendments

Claims 24-44 are pending. Applicant has canceled Claims 1, 9-12 and 20-23, and added Claims 24-44. No new matter has been entered by these amendments.

Drawing Amendments

Figure 6 in the present application has been amended at step 620 to reverse the Yes/No designations, to reflect Figure 6 as originally filed in the present application.

Claim Rejections -- 35 U.S.C. § 103

On page 5 of the Final Office Action, claims 1, 7-12 and 18-23 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Moy* (U.S. Patent Number 5,425,102) in view of *Guthrie et al.* (U.S. Patent Number 6,161,185). That rejection is respectfully traversed and reconsideration of the claims is requested. These claims have been cancelled and new claims 23-44 have been added. Neither *Moy* nor *Guthrie* disclose or suggest the present invention as claimed.

For example, exemplary Claim 24 in the present application recites the step of:

"prior to the client computer system completing a boot process, and before an operating system controls the client computer system, prompting a user to enter the primary password"

On page 5 of the Final Office Action, it is suggested that *Moy* teaches "prior to said client computer system completing a boot process, prompting a user to enter said primary password (FIG. 3)." However, *Moy* is clearly teaching a method to allow prompting of hints to guess the password in order to access a file. (see col. 1, lines 5-10.) *Moy* teaches nothing about performing a password computer security methodology during the boot process of a computer.

A second example is that Claim 24 in the present application further recites the step of:

"transmitting the user's response to the interrogative to the server"

Moy nowhere teaches such a step. While *Moy* teaches giving hints at the actual primary password, the system does not expect a response to the interrogative that is different from the primary password. Instead, the password hints provided by *Moy* are intended to jog the user's memory into entering the primary password (see col. 2, lines 30-36).

As another example, Claim 24 in the present application further recites:

"transmitting the users primary password in response to the correct entry of the interrogative response to the client computer system prior to completing the boot process"

While on page 6 of the present Office Action, the Examiner admits that *Moy* is silent with respect to the transmission of a password from a server, the Examiner relies upon *Guthrie* to teach a server recovering a primary password for a client. However, nothing within Guthrie describes recovering a primary password for a client. Instead, *Guthrie* describes a method of server-controlled access to network resources, software applications running on servers, internet or world wide web pages, databases, files, or other electronic data (col. 1, lines 10-28). Nowhere does *Guthrie*, *Moy*, or the prior art teach or suggest "transmitting the user's primary password in response to the correct entry of the interrogative response" as is recited in exemplary Claim 24 in the present application. *Guthrie* merely teaches that a "user's password expires after a pre-determined period of time, thereby requiring users to change their passwords" and that the server accepts "only a single one-time password value which expires within a short period of time to thereby foil a malicious user's attempt at 'hammering'" (see col. 2, lines 20-57). As can be seen, *Guthrie* provides no teaching if an interrogative methodology, or, more importantly, the transmission of a primary password across the network to the client computer in response to a correct entry in response to an interrogative method. Neither reference suggests transmitting the primary password to the client computer.

Last, exemplary Claim 24 in the present application recites *"displaying the user's primary password on the client computer system, wherein the recovery of the primary password is completed."* Neither *Moy*, nor *Guthrie* teaches displaying the actual primary password for the user.

In summary, the two cited prior art references lack any showing or suggestion of the present invention. For example, at least the following steps are not shown or suggested.

"prior to the client computer system completing a boot process, and before an operating system controls the client computer system, prompting a user to enter the primary password"

"transmitting the user's response to the interrogative to the server"

"transmitting the users primary password in response to the correct entry of the interrogative response to the client computer system prior to completing the boot process"

"displaying the user's primary password on the client computer system, wherein the recovery of the primary password is completed."

Respectfully submitted,



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